

MAR 08 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 3 THROUGH OCTOBER 7, 2022, AS DIGITAL
INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, broadband services are essential infrastructure
2 for the twenty-first century and play an important role in
3 providing access to knowledge and opportunities from around the
4 world; and

5
6 WHEREAS, digital equity ensures all individuals and
7 communities have the information technology capacity needed for
8 full participation in our society, democracy, and economy and is
9 necessary for civic and cultural participation, lifelong
10 learning, and access to essential services, such as
11 telemedicine, distance learning, and the workplace; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
14 has heightened the demand for reliable, affordable internet
15 connectivity as work, education, and access to essential
16 services have shifted toward being provided online; and

17
18 WHEREAS, broadband access protects public health during the
19 COVID-19 pandemic, while addressing socioeconomic disparities
20 for the most vulnerable Hawaii residents who live in
21 underrepresented communities; and

22
23 WHEREAS, many rural, agricultural, and lower-income
24 communities throughout the State lack access to reliable and
25 affordable broadband due to the lack of infrastructure;
26 discrimination in investment in delivering technology and
27 technology-related services to specific areas or populations; or
28 barriers derived from socioeconomic status, education, literacy,
29 language, or disabilities; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital
32 inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities,
33



1 including the most remote and disadvantaged, have access to and
2 the use of information and communication technologies, including
3 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled
4 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital
5 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications
6 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-
7 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in his State of the State address on January 25,
10 2021, Governor David Ige called for the State to expand its
11 investments in digital technology of Hawaii 2.0, thereby
12 dedicating the State to being a leader in broadband access; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Thirty-first Hawaii State Legislature
15 established the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office and
16 the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to facilitate the
17 deployment of the infrastructure necessary to provide broadband
18 service to unserved and underserved areas of the State through
19 Act 225, Regular Session of 2021; and
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21 WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the need for digital equity
22 and to promote digital inclusion, the Senate of the Thirty-first
23 Hawaii State Legislature further recognized October 4 through
24 October 8, 2021, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State through
25 Senate Resolution No. 49, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2021; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the
28 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated
29 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,
30 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational
31 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of
32 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and
33 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,
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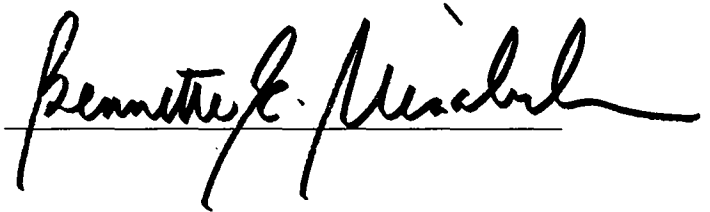
35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
37 that October 3 through October 7, 2022, is recognized as Digital
38 Inclusion Week in the State to raise awareness of the need for
39 digital equity and to promote digital inclusion; and
40



S.R. NO. 19

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
3 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett E. Michael", is written over a horizontal line.